

# Handle With Care

Save  
Vaccine  
Save  
Money

**FREEZE**

**REFRIGERATE**

Oral Polio  
Varicella

5°F  
or lower

MMR  
DTaP/DTP  
DT & Td  
Hib  
HepA, HepB  
Influenza  
IPV  
Pneumococcal

35°F  
to 46°F

## Vaccines are very expensive.

Here's what typical vaccines cost:

DTaP: \$17.12 per dose

Hepatitis B: \$24 per dose

MMR: \$28.19 per dose

IPV: \$15.42 per dose

Pneumo conj: \$58 per dose

Varicella: \$45.56 per dose

If we don't protect our vaccines, they won't protect our patients!

## Vaccine Handling Rules

**Refrigerate** vaccine immediately when it is received.\* Store oral polio and varicella vaccine in freezer. Do not store vaccine in the door of the refrigerator.

**Protect** MMR from light at all times and keep it cold. Don't get the vial from the refrigerator until time to reconstitute and administer. Diluent does not need refrigeration if MMR is administered right after diluent is added.

**Rotate** vaccine stock to avoid outdating. Note the expiration dates on vials or cartons and use short-dated vaccines first. Keep vials and polio dispettes in their cartons. Don't use outdated vaccine. Don't over-order.

**Safeguard** the refrigerator. Make sure it stays plugged in. It should have a safety-lock type plug.

**Post** a warning sign so electricians or janitors don't accidentally unplug the refrigerator or turn off the circuit or electricity.

**Maintain** proper temperatures in the refrigerator (2°C to 8°C or 35°F to 46°F) and in the freezer (-14°C or 7°F or lower). If space allows, help keep temperatures stable by placing big plastic containers of water in the refrigerator, cold packs (blue ice) in the freezer.

**Check** refrigerator and freezer twice a day, first thing in the morning and last thing at night. *AM:* See if temperatures are correct. (Keep kitchenware-type thermometers in both refrigerator and freezer. *PM:* Make sure the doors are shut tightly and the unit is plugged in.

\*Refer to package insert for specific instructions on each vaccine. If you have questions about the condition of the vaccines at the time of delivery, first store them properly, then notify the supplier and get instructions.